Network

Season's Greetings

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Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, Hamilton

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r. takes Canada's temperature

McMaster University

CANADA: on the FIRING LINE

Hamilton Ontario

Canada was on the firing line recently when McMaster University was host for three episodes of American conservative William F. Buckley, Jr.'s public affairs television show *Firing Line*.

The special Canadian series *Canada on The Firing Line*, to appear on public television stations starting in early January 1992, addresses a variety of contemporary Canadian political and social issues such as the principles of social democracy, healthcare, and national unity.

During the three tapings at McMaster's Health Sciences Centre Mr. Buckley, known for his droll wit, verbally sparred with Ontario Premier Bob Rae, nationalist publisher Mel Hurtig, McMaster President Dr. Geraldine Kenney–Wallace and a panel of university students.

Americans are currently debating the merits of adopting a national health insurance system like Canada's and Mr. Buckley repeatedly drew his guests out on the topic.

In discussing what makes Canadians different from Americans, Premier Rae highlighted the Canadian healthcare system. Democratic socialism in Cananda is characterized by an attitude of caring for one another and by a strong belief in social values, Premier Rae said.

He defended the Canadian healthcare system as superior to the American approach during his debate with the sometimes cantankerous host. Although he conceded that escalating costs are a problem in Ontario where more than 30 per cent of its budget is now spent on healthcare.

"If you look at how we provide health care in Canada, you'd see that as a general rule we have wider access, greater longevity, lower infant mortality rates, and generally speaking, a higher standard of public health than is the case in your country," Premier Rae said.

Replying to Mr. Buckley's query about waiting lists for elective surgery in Canada Premier Rae said, "the reason you might not have some of the waiting lists in the United States is because you have tens of millions of people who aren't even on a list because they don't have health insurance at all."

McMaster President Geraldine Kenney–Wallace chats with William F. Buckley, Jr prior to public TV tapings to be aired in early January 1992.

In a lively exchange with Mr. Buckley, Edmonton–based publisher and Canadian nationalist Mr. Mel Hurtig said to loud audience applause, "we love Americans in many ways, we admire you and are fortunate to live next door to you in many, many ways. But we don't want to be Americans."

"I don't think we've invited you," quipped Mr. Buckley.

During the final taping McMaster President Geraldine Kenney–Wallace, prior to introducing the student panel from McMaster, predicted Canada would survive its constitutional crisis "with passion and pragmatism."

Discussions are under way for Mr. Buckley to return to Canada for more tapings of *Firing Line*, this time concentrating on healthcare issues exclusively.

Two provinces to test cards holding medical histories

Two provinces are about to begin testing a plan using a computer chip on a consumer's health identity card to store a person's entire medical history.

Ontario and Quebec are both ready to run pilot projects sited in remote towns.

In Ontario, the medical history–on–a–chip cards will be tested in Fort Frances, a community of about 9,000 persons near the border of Manitoba.

The cards will be given to 2,000 to 3,000 residents of the town at a cost of about $1.6 million. The project should be underway during December and will run for six months.

Layne Verbeek, a spokesperson for the Ontario Ministry of Health says the cards, which can instantly provide a patient's medical history to those with access, are being tried as one way of reducing the increasing costs of the healthcare system.

Using the "smart" cards healthcare workers will be able to tell instantly whether a patient has been treated or given a prescription by another physician.

In Quebec, a similar project has begun in Rimouski, where the government hopes to have 8,000 participants.

The Quebec Civil Liberties Union, and other civil liberties groups in Canada, have opposed the cards, saying they will violate patient confidentiality.

Verbeek says the pilot projects are designed to find out whether these kinds of concerns are valid.

All of the names of people participating in the pilot projects will be erased when analysis of the cards begins, he said.

Saskatchewan has already introduced similar "smart" health identity cards, but their cards contain only information on prescription drugs.

(From The Dispatch *A Canadian Health Care Management Supplement.)*

Continuing health sciences education program prepares grand rounds case studies

Ms Pat Carter, resource coordinator of the faculty of health sciences' continuing health sciences education program, accepts a $1,500 cheque on behalf of the program from Mr. Peter Dixon of Astra Pharma. The honorarium was presented to CHSE for a grand rounds case study in gastroenterology prepared by Drs. R. Goodacre, medicine, and J. Kraemer, family medicine. The case study will be distributed to about 19,000 physicians across Canada as part of the Memco Physician's Planner. More grand rounds case studies will be developed during 1992.

Community members make timely gifts to health sciences research

The Lupus Society of Hamilton recently contributed $5,000 toward lupus research in the faculty of health sciences thus extending their ongoing support of work done by Dr Judah Denburg and his colleagues.

Residents and staff of the **Maranatha Retirement Home in Burlington** have also contributed $1,800 for lupus research. They hold an annual craft show to benefit lupus research.

Also contributing to research in McMaster's faculty of health sciences and to service at Chedoke–McMaster Hospitals recently were the **Masons of three Hamilton districts** chaired by **Mr. Douglas Clouse** who donated $15,135 to the neonatal intensive care unit study fund.

This brings the Hamilton and area Masons' donations to help sick newborns to about $55,000 over the past four years.

Mr. Clouse's committee raises funds through the Masons' Annual Walk for Charity. Some funds are used to purchase research equipment.

"We are particularly grateful because not only does this support have a beneficial effect upon patients in our own neonatal intensive care unit, but because of its direction toward education and research it has a much wider beneficial effect on the care of sick newborns in Canada generally and even beyond our own borders," said **Dr. John Watts** director of the neonatal intensive care unit.

Mussallem receives nursing leadership award

Helen K. Mussallem recently received the 1991 CNF Ross Award for Nursing Leadership from Ross Laboratories and the Canadian Nurses Foundation.

Dr. Mussallem is president of the Victorian Order of Nurses of Canada. She also served as executive director of the Canadian Nurses Association and directed a pilot project which led to major reforms in Canadian nursing education and health care.

New district health councils approved

Health Minister Frances Lankin recently announced the establishment of four new district health councils (DHCs).

They will plan for the health needs of residents in the Regional Municipality of York, Hastings and Prince Edward counties, the District of Nipissing, and Renfrew County.

Ms Lankin made the announcement at Action Centre '91, the annual conference of district health councils attended by DHC representatives from across Ontario.

With the addition of the new councils, DHCs in Ontario now number 32 and serve more than 98 per cent of the population.

"The councils play a vital role in planning and setting priorities for programs and services in their areas and advising the ministry about local needs," said Ms Lankin.

"They are an important instrument for weighing and determining the appropriate balance among personal, institutional and community services. They work because they involve people who live in the community, who know best what their own needs are."

The minister said that since the first council was established in Ottawa–Carleton in 1974, DHCs have been strengthened.

In addition to identifying local area needs, planning programs, coordinating initiatives and working toward cooperation in social development activities, their role now also includes integrating health and social services planning, regional planning, looking at human resource needs and giving advice on the allocation of funds within their areas.

Provincial AIDS advisory committee members named

The names of members of the new Ontario Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS have been announced by the Ministry of Health.

Health Minister Frances Lankin noted that this committee includes people living with HIV disease, representatives of community–based groups and health professionals experienced in the treatment of HIV and AIDS.

Roy Cain, PhD, an associate professor in the school of social work at McMaster University is a member of the main committee and also chairs the prevention and public/professional education subcommittee.

The minister of health has asked the committee to:

- evaluate the existing network of HIV outpatient clinics to ensure they are providing consistent care and coordinating services with others in the community;
- establish guidelines for provincial quality of care to ensure that people living with HIV have a high standard of care no matter where they live in the province;
- work with ministry's AIDS coordinator to develop a comprehensive AIDS strategy for Ontario;
- and review all government–funded AIDS programs to ensure that money is being spent effectively and efficiently.

Dr. Alex Klein, a primary care physician who works with HIV patients in Toronto, is chair of the new committee. Vice–chair is Michael Sobota, executive director of the AIDS Committee of Thunder Bay. Regional representation includes people from Thunder Bay, Hamilton, Ottawa, Peterborough, and Kenora. In addition, the committee has aboriginal and multicultural representation.

Dr. Henry Friesen named MRC president

Dr. Henry Friesen, an internationally–known Canadian medical scientist and educator, has been appointed president of the Medical Research Council of Canada. Dr Friesen is professor and head of the department of physiology and professor of medicine at the University of Manitoba. A specialist in the field of endocrinology, he is known for directing research into human growth hormone and is credited with the discovery of the human hormone prolactin. Dr. Friesen succeeds Dr. Pierre Bois who recently retired.

Health sciences faculty and Chedoke–McMaster Hospitals start waste avoidance/recycling committee

A new waste avoidance/recycling committee comprising many departments of Chedoke–McMaster Hospitals and McMaster's faculty of health sciences has started as a forum to exchange and generate ideas for waste avoidance and recycling in the health sciences centre.

The committee, started by the McMaster division of Chedoke–McMaster Hospitals and accountable to its corporate waste–management committee, will provide health sciences faculty and staff, and employees of both hospital sites with a forum to test, coordinate and implement

new ideas about managing waste.

One of its focuses will be to promote recycling awareness regarding waste management among staff, patients, students and visitors to the health sciences centre by keeping them informed of the programs in place or being considered at the McMaster division of CMH and the faculty of health sciences.

Those interested in helping to manage the institutional environment through avoidance, recycling and disposal should contact the director of housekeeping, who chairs the committee, at the McMaster division of CMH.

NETWORKING

Continuing Education, Academic Studies
For information and registration, contact G. Burditt, 521-2100 ext. 4900.

Nutrition Research Seminar:
Dec. 20 - HSC-4E20, 12:00-1:00 p.m., **Combined Nutrition-Allergy/Immunology Seminar,** Dr. Ranjit Chandra, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Continuing Health Sciences Education Short Course Programs, of interest to all health professionals. Contact 521-7966 for information or registration.

Jan. 8 - Dermatology, Hamilton Convention Centre, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
Jan. 15 - Respirology, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Allergies 1:00- 4:30 p.m., Hamilton Convention Centre.
Jan. 29 - Urgent Care in the Office, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton.
Feb. 5 - Surgery, 12:00-4:30 p.m., Hamilton Convention Centre.
Feb. 10-14 - Medicine Update '92, Sheraton Resort, Steamboat Springs, Colorado.
Feb. 12 - Cardiology, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Therapeutics, 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton.
Feb. 26 - Geriatrics - Chronic Pain (combined CNE/CME), 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, Hamilton Convention Centre.
Mar. 4 - Orthopaedics, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00, Back Pain, 1:00-4:30 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton.
Mar. 11 - Computers, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00, Hamilton Sheraton.
Mar. 12-14 - 13th Annual Winter Symposium - Grand Rounds in Medicine, Sheraton Sand Key Resort, Clearwater, Florida.
Mar. 25 - Prevention, Hamilton Convention Centre.
Apr. 1 - Gynecology & Other Women's Health Issues, Hamilton Convention Centre.
Apr. 8 - Pediatrics, Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton.
Apr. 22 - 1:00-4:30 p.m., Dermatology, Hamilton Convention Centre.
Apr. 29 - Gastroenterology, 8:30 a.m.-12:00, Head & Neck, 1:00-4:30 p.m., Hamilton Convention Centre.
May 8-10 - Primary Care Review, Queen's Landing, Niagara-on-the-Lake.
May 13 - Stress Management 1, Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton.
May 20 - Cardiology, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00, Geriatrics (combined CNE/CME), 1:00-4:30 p.m., Hamilton Convention Centre.
May 27 - Sports Medicine, 8:30 a.m.-12:00, Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton.
June 10 - Pediatric Emergencies, Sheraton Hotel, Hamilton.
June 10-12 - Pediatric Advanced Life Support for Emergency Room Physicians, Family Physicians, Pediatricians, Health Sciences Centre, McMaster University.
June 22-26 - In-depth Palliative Care, Canterbury Hills, Ancaster, Ontario.

Continuing Health Sciences Education - Nursing
For RNs, RNAs and other health professionals. For further information, 521-7966.
Jan. 9 - Continence, Hamilton Convention Centre.
Feb. 14 - The Nurse Manager & Labour Issues, Hamilton Convention Centre.
Feb. 26 - 8:30 a.m.-12:00, Geriatrics - Chronic Pain (Combined CNE/CME), Hamilton Convention Centre.
Mar. 27 - Challenging Behavior, Hamilton Convention Centre.
May 20 - 1:00-4:30 p.m., Geriatrics (combined CNE/CME), Hamilton Convention Centre.
June 5 - Staffing in Longterm Care, location to be determined.

Transplantation Works! A workshop on Organ Donation, to be held January 27, 1992 at the College Inn, Guelph, Ontario. To register, contact Christina Marshall at (416) 637-1215. Sponsored by Multiple Organ Retrieval and Exchange Program of Ontario (MORE).

ECAH Conference on Education in Aging and Health call for posters

The 5th Annual Conference on Education in Aging and Health will be held April 1 & 2, 1992, at the Holiday Inn, Kingston, Ontario. You are invited to present a poster to display and discuss your sample curricula, education or training programs, community liaison program, technology (i.e. video, resource materials) or innovative ideas consistent with the Conference theme in the following interest areas.

1. **Models or reports of interdisciplinary team education and training activities within Ontario.**
2. **Summaries of the Ontario University Coalition for Education in Health Care of the Elderly Ad Hoc Discipline-Specific Committees' activities and positions.**
3. **Innovative examples of broad gerontological and educational programs or activities related to interdisciplinary education.**

The Conference Planning committee will select up to 5 submissions consistent with the Conference theme for an implementation strategies discussion at a panel session.

Grants are available for 5 abstracts (maximum $500 each) to assist with expenses in the production of the poster to be displayed at the Conference. Submissions consistent with #1 will be given first priority for the grant award. Deadline for abstracts is January 3, 1992. For information and the Abstract Form, contact Educational Centre for Aging and Health (ECAH) at (416)525-9140, ext. 2977.

McMaster University **Network**

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